



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors
From: Homes Study Office, Department of Education
Re: Integration of Home Study Students into the Public Schools (Act 119 of 1998)
Date: December 21, 2010

The Home Study Office receives many questions from public schools throughout the year about a variety of Act 119 issues. We thought it might be helpful if we review Act 119 of 1998 and address a few of the most common questions here.

Act 119 of 1998 provides for the participation of homeschoolers in public schools by requiring that every school board “adopt a policy which, in accordance with rules adopted by the state board of education, will integrate home study students into its schools through enrollment in courses, participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities and use of facilities.” *See* 16 V.S.A. §563(24).

State Board of Education (“SBE”) Rules 4400-4405 have been adopted to implement Act 119 and may be accessed online at:

<http://www.education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/rules/4400.pdf>.

These are some of the questions we are asked most frequently:

1. Is a home study student eligible to take classes at our public school?

Yes. A student enrolled in a registered home study program pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §166b “shall be eligible to enroll as a part-time student in a school operated by his or her district of residence or, if the district does not operate a school, in a public school for which his or her district of residence is required to pay tuition.” *See* SBE Rule 4403.1.

2. How many classes may a home study student take at our public school?

Up to forty percent of the core academics may be taken at the public school. “Core academics” includes language arts, math, social studies, science, and literature. A home study program must submit the signature of a school official verifying any core class(es) the child is taking at the public school. Home study is not intended to be an elective for one or two subjects for students who are otherwise enrolled in a school. To be enrolled in a home study program, at least sixty percent of the core academics must be conducted at home.

3. What if a student is seeking partial enrollment in my school and is not enrolled through the Home Study Office?

Eligibility for partial enrollment in a public school is only available to students enrolled in a home study program pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 166b. A home study student's participation in any course or co-curricular or extracurricular activity at a public school must not occur until the parent or guardian has provided the school with a copy of the letter from the Home Study Office of the Department of Education that acknowledges enrollment in the home study program for the particular school year. Children between the ages of 6 and 16 not enrolled in a public school, an approved or recognized independent school, an approved education program, or a home study program, at the beginning of the year and thereafter, are legally truant.

4. May our school collect a partial ADM for a home study student?

A. Academic classes

A home study student taking academic classes at a public school is counted as a part-time student. ADM is calculated by the number of hours in weekly attendance divided by 27.5 hours.

B. Co-curricular or extracurricular participation

A student enrolled as a home study student pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 166b, who is not a part-time student enrolled in academic programs, but who participates in one or more co-curricular or extracurricular activities at a public school, shall be counted as .03 of a full-time equivalent student for each activity in which he or she participates. For purposes of this provision, the reporting period shall be from beginning of the 41st day of a school year to the end of the 40th day of the following school year.

5. If the student is taking academic classes during the day, would the school be able to collect .03 for the co-curricular and/or extracurricular activities?

No. A home study student taking academic classes and participating in either a co-curricular or extracurricular activity may not receive the .03 ADM count for the non-academic activities.

To read more about the home study law and policies, you may access our publication, *Guidelines for Home Study in Vermont*, at the Department of Education website:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_homestudy.html#integration

If you have any questions or concerns about home study here in Vermont, please do not hesitate to contact us so we may help you with your particular situations.

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